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WASHINGTON SUPPORT TO THE ARMS CONTROL PROCESS

Policy Formulation

U.S. negotiating positions on arms control matters proceed through the IG-SIG-NSC process for ultimate decision by the President. The primary agencies represented at each level are:

State Department
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Central Intelligence Agency.

Intelligence inputs are provided at the IG level on such subjects as:

- US capabilities to monitor limitations under consideration
- Soviet military and political intentions
- Likely Soviet reactions to US proposals.

These analyses are prepared by the Intelligence Community's SALT Monitoring Working Group, under the aegis of the DCI Steering Group on Monitoring Strategic Arms Limitations.

Support to Negotiations in Progress

The START Backstopping Committee, which is made up of representatives from the agencies cited above, serves as the focal point for the inevitable clarifications of -- and excursions beyond -- the Delegation's instructions in the course of the negotiations.

Monitoring

Monitoring Soviet compliance with present and projected arms control agreements is a continuing function of the Intelligence Community. At present, we are monitoring the SALT I, ABM Treaty and Interim Agreement and the unratified SALT II Treaty. In addition, we remain alert for Soviet developments which could affect U.S. positions and negotiating tactics in START. The SALT Monitoring Working Group prepares coordinated Intelligence Community analyses of ambiguous situations as they arise, and publishes the semi-annual SALT Monitoring Report. This report -- which sets forth the status of Soviet strategic forces and describes activity affecting those forces -- is timed to appear just before the spring and fall sessions of the Standing Consultative Commission in Geneva.

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THE DELEGATION IN GENEVA

The formal work of the Delegation takes place in plenary sessions, usually held twice weekly. These sessions meet for about one hour and consist of a position speech from each side. Sessions alternate between the U.S. Botanic Building and the Soviet Mission.

Following the plenary, the Delegates and principal advisers of both sides meet informally. These conversations allow new ideas and procedures to be presented and explanations and expansions of meaning to be given.

The advisers and staff normally prepare responses to the speeches of the other side, soon after the plenaries. These preparations may involve substantial research that often may require a cabled request for information from Washington. For the Intelligence Community, the Arms Control Intelligence Staff here at Headquarters is the focal point for such requests.

The Intelligence Team in Geneva consists of a Senior Intelligence Adviser from CIA, one or two intelligence officers from CIA, a DIA representative, and a secretary. The Team provides current intelligence briefings for the Delegation each morning, responds to a broad range of questions from the Delegation, and provides self-initiated analyses on issues under consideration. Another important duty is the protection of intelligence sources and methods during exchanges with the Soviet Delegation. To fulfill these tasks, the Intelligence Team has secure pouch, telephone, and telegraph communication with Headquarters.

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